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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6893**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1187

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 2, 2012

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Licensure of Dietitians.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Welch

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** *Licensed Dietitians*- The bill requires, with certain exceptions, an individual who: (1) professes to be a licensed dietitian; (2) implies by words or letters that the individual is a licensed dietitian; or (3) engages in the practice of dietetics; to be licensed.

*Repeal of Certification*- The bill repeals provisions providing for certification of dietitians.

*Name Change*- The bill changes the name of the Indiana Dietitians Certification Board to the Indiana Dietitians Licensing Board (IDLB).

*Grandfathers Current Certified Dietitians*- The bill specifies that an individual who is a certified dietitian on June 30, 2012, becomes a licensed dietitian beginning July 1, 2012. The bill makes other conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Licensed Dietitians*- The proposed Indiana Dietitians Licensing Board would be able to make the rules necessary to comply with the bill within their existing level of resources. The bill would allow current rules with the terms: "certify," "certified," and "certification" to be construed as: "license," "licensed," and "licensure" with respect to licensed dietitians.

*IDLB Board*- The IDLB would have to meet at least four times instead of the current two times per year. The current Certification Board has not had a meeting scheduled since August 2011. The proposed IDLB would have seven members, the same number as the current board.

**Examination-** The bill would continue the existing practice of using a private testing vendor as approved by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CODR). Depending on any rules adopted by the IDLB, any examination changes would depend on the CODR to complete and would not impact state expenditures. Examinations are currently computerized and are available year round Monday through Friday.

**Name Change-** This provision would likely impact state expenditures. The board would have to change the letterhead of their existing stationary and applications in order to conform with the bill's requirements. With the widespread availability of applications and other informational documents for the IDLB available online, the additional costs would likely be less if printing costs are kept to a minimum.

**Grandfathers Current Certified Dietitians-** The bill would give the proposed IDLB the power to waive the examination requirement for a licensed dietitian if certain provisions within the bill are met. The waiver plus the grandfather provision within the bill would significantly reduce the expenditures necessary to a negligible level to convert certified dietitians to licensed status.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Licensed Dietitians-* The bill would give the proposed IDLB the option to increase the supervised practice experience for a new dietician by 300 hours to 1,200 hours. This provision may slow the initial licensing of dieticians in the first years of implementation.

**Background Information-** The Professional Licensing Agency reports there were 1,251 active certified dietitians as of September 13, 2011. Certification fee revenue from dieticians totaled \$25,930 in FY 2011.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Dieticians Certification Board.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** *Indiana Handbook of Taxes, Revenues, and Appropriations*, FY 2011 Edition; Professional Licensing Agency active license/certification totals 9/13/2011.

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